## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel non-elected claims 28-51 and additional claims 2, 15, 20, 25 and 26, and amend claims 1, 3-5, 8, 11-14, 16, 18, 19, 21-24 and 27, all without prejudice, as indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Amendment:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing an ~~human interface~~ audio signal, comprising modifying the ~~interface~~ audio signal in a manner minimizing the perceptibility of the modification when the ~~interface~~ audio signal is reproduced but which modifies the audio signal ~~sufficiently so~~ in a manner that compression thereof then causes a resulting signal decompressed from the compressed modified signal to have a reduced quality that is perceptible ~~in a signal reproduced from a compressed version of the modified signal upon its decompression~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein modifying the audio signal includes increasing levels of certain frequency components of the audio signal.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein modifying the audio signal includes ascertaining spectral distributions of temporally successive blocks of data of the audio signal, determining masking functions for individual ones of the spectral distributions of data, an individual masking function defining upper levels of frequency components of its associated block of data to which perception of the signal does not change, and increasing the levels of at least some of the frequency components of the spectral distributions below their respective masking functions.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the audio signal includes at least first and second channel signals, and wherein modifying the signal includes altering a relationship between said at least first and second channel signals.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein altering relationships includes altering amplitude, timing or phase relationships between said at least first and second channel signals.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein modifying the audio signal additionally includes utilizing the relationship between said at least first and second channel signals to unmask components of the audio signal that are masked.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein modifying the audio signal further includes doing so in a manner which causes a sound data compression and decompression algorithm, when compressing the modified audio signal, to at least part of the time invoke at least one compression mode that is different from that which is invoked by the audio signal alone in order that the compressed version thereof results in a version of the audio signal that is perceptible upon its decompression to be undesirably changed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein modifying the audio signal further includes doing so in a manner which causes the compression and decompression algorithm to compress the modified audio signal by invoking said at least one algorithm compression mode that is alternately the same and different from that which is invoked by the original audio signal alone.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the audio signal includes two or more audio channels and the sound data compression and decompression algorithm includes at least two compression modes, a first mode wherein data of each of the two or more channels of the audio signal are compressed separately and a second mode wherein data of the audio signal of the two or more channels are combined together prior to compression.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein modifying the audio signal includes non-continuously removing at least one component from the audio signal.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, additionally comprising initially decompressing the audio signal from a compressed version thereof received over a communications network, the initial decompression and the modification of the decompressed audio signal being carried out in a processor unit that isolates the decompressed audio signal from a user prior to its modification.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims [[1-12]] 1 and 3-12, additionally comprising recording the modified signal in a physical storage medium.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein modifying the audio signal additionally includes doing so in a manner that also minimizes the perceptibility of the modification when the signal is compressed and decompressed a first time but wherein said reduced quality is perceptible in the audio signal when reproduced from a decompression of the second compression of the signal.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[15]] 14, wherein modifying the audio signal includes adding noise or audio data thereto.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the noise or audio data is added to the audio signal in recurring bursts.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims [[14-17]] 14, 16 and 17, additionally comprising recording the signal in a first compressed version thereon in a physical storage medium.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of compressing an ~~human interface~~ audio signal, comprising modifying a process of its compression in a manner that minimizes the perceptibility of a resulting change to the signal when decompressed from said compression but which results

in a second audio signal having a reduced quality that is perceptible when reproduced from a second compression and decompression of the decompressed audio signal.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 19, wherein modifying the compression process includes altering timing of processing of defined time sequential blocks of data of the audio signal.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 19, wherein modifying the compression process includes doing so as a function of at least one characteristic of the audio signal.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 19, wherein modifying the compression process includes using a quantizer adjusted to quantize individual frequency components of the audio signal in a manner that avoids the perceptibility of quantizing errors in the audio signal when decompressed from said compression but which renders quantizing errors perceptible in a sound signal reproduced from the second compression and decompression of the decompressed audio signal.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 19, wherein modifying the compression process includes adding encoded discontinuities to data resulting from compression of the audio signal.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims [[19-26]] 19 and 21-24, additionally comprising recording the compressed signal in a physical storage medium.

28. – 51. (Cancelled)